

What Makes a Virtual Instructional Coach Effective?

Coaching virtually requires all the skills and knowledge of in-person coaching as well as additional expertise in key areas.

In-Person Coaching

Virtual Coaching

RELATIONSHIP BUILDER



Builds trusting relationships, shows empathy, establishes productive relationships.

Pays special attention to body language and tone, creates a warm and engaging environment, and adapts to the changing 'temperature' of the coaching space.



DATA ANALYST



Utilizes data to establish a shared understanding of reality, set goals, and address gaps.

Clearly explains how to use data in a virtual setting, drawing from classroom video, student work and educator reflection.



ACTIVE AND EXPERT LEARNER



Learns continuously, bringing new strategies and content to coaching sessions.

Shares interactive and engaging resources and tools, making careful decisions about what can be done in-session versus after.



FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE THINKER



Assesses the needs of each educator and adjusts supports accordingly.

Responds flexibly to unexpected challenges, especially from technological issues, while staying focused on goals.



CURIOS LEARNER



Investigates through questioning and active listening, thinking creatively to develop action plans.

Asks more than the typical number of questions to gather data, assess needs, and build relationships.



EFFICIENCY EXPERT



Prioritizes time effectively, and consistently uses structures and systems to ground the work.

Prioritizes time and plans for shorter or less frequent coaching sessions, creating a "backwards plan" so that each educator walks away with action steps.



BetterLesson has more than a decade of expertise in virtual professional development. We provide one-to-one and one-to-many virtual professional learning experiences across a wide range of domains including distance and flexible learning.

Explore our supports for educators at [BetterLesson.com](https://www.betterlesson.com)